## MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

CONTINUED FROM EIGHTH PAGE

government has been proved to be more under a fee system than under a salary system. Such has been the idea of the framers of all the city charters. The fees hitherto paid may have been excessive in percentage, and I am not prepared to deny that there about long age have been and should now be a reduction of the percentage. But some percentage should be preserved, and it must be borne in mind that percentages come from the assessment fund paid by owners of property benefited by its improvement, while the salary will be debited against taxation. Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

A. OAKEY HALL, Mayor.

#### THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

Revelations Concerning the East Afrioan Trame-Experiences of an Asiatio Expert-What He Knows of the Centres of the Speculation in Human Flesh and Blood-The "Blind" of the Ivory Trad - Where the Cargoes Are mbarked-Commercial Barter and Slave Trader Apprentices.
[From the Times of India, Nov. 5.]

Mr. Mathoordas Khetsee, whom we have once introduced to our readers as the champion of Hintoo widows, and who has visited Europe and resided at Zanzibar and other slave trafficking districts of Africa for a period of seven years for the purposes of trade, gives the following account in the Rast Goftar of his experience of the slave trade, which reveals to us details not hitherto known to us. We give Mr. Mathoordas' version in his own words, as stated by our weekly contemporary :-

WHAT HE KNOWS OF THE TRAFFIC. Since the public at large has been exhorted by the press to render every assistance in their power to Sir Bartle Frere and his colleagues I have taken the liberty to offer what little I know of the Hindoo slave traders of Africa. I have spent seven years with my family in those parts of the African Continent which are supposed to be the principal fountain heads of the obnoxious trade. My father, ar inhabitant of Cutch, died at Zanzibar fifteen years inhabitant of Cutch, died at Zanzibar fifteen years ago. My uncle died in the same African town twenty-live years ago, and my elder brother has been living at Veeboo, the chief seat of the Airican slave trade, for the last twenty years. Another prother of mine, who is now at Kurrachee, has lived in Africa for ten years, and my third brother went to Zanzibar four years ago, and is still there. My elder brother's eldest son has been carrying on trade at Veeboo with his father since the year 1857, and another of my nephews lett Bombay for Africa in January last. In former time slave trade was at its full beight in these places, and my family had a share in it, but subsequently by the exertions of the British government the trade has received a considerable check now. My family have now abandoned the trade, but I venture to presume that my experience is quite enough to be of some use.

ASIATIC INTERESTS AND AGENCIES

ASIATIC INTERESTS AND AGENCIES.

The inhabitants of India have the greatest share in the slave trade. They are mostly Bhattins, Bunias, Khojas and Borahs. Although Borah merchants are not known to be slave traders, a large number of them reside at the principal towns.

Vessels from Bombay proceed by the coast near Burawa as far as Soffala.

The native merchants of to Savece. Membase

Vessels from Bombay Proceed by the coast near Burawa as far as Sofials.

The native merchants go to Samoo, Mombasa, Zanzibar, Kilva, Queelowa, Mozambique, Madagascar, Sofials and Kirmani. There are only from five to ten Khejas, about seventy-five Bhattias, and a very large number of Damann and Div Bunnias in Mozambique. Madagascar, called Bookiu by the natives, contains about a thousand Borabs and Khojas. They have their families with them. In Zanzibar and such other ports the number of Bhattias, Bunnias and Khojas are nearly equal.

FARSEE PARTICIPANTS IN THE FROFITS.

You will be surprised to hear, perhaps, that there are about five Parsees in Zanzibar, about the same number in Mozambique, two or three in Veeboo and one or two others here and there. They are all inhabitants of Damaun and Div. They put on Parsee uniform, and although they appear not to have anything to do with slave trade, they are strongly suspected of having some participation in it. Cutchee Bunnias generally reside in Mombasa and Lamoo, while the Damaun and Div Bunnias live in Mozambique and the southern territories. The vessels from Damann and Div proceed direct to the African coast with these merchants. OCIAL AND DOMESTIC IMMORALITIES AND COM-

MERCIAL AND DOMESTIC IMMORALITIES AND COM-MERCIAL INTERESTS.

These latter go there from their infancy and spend their lives in Africa. They live there for about thirty to thirty-five years, collect money and return to their native country to get married. Cutchee Bunnias and Bhattias also go to Africa without their wives or families, but they keep African mistresses with them in their houses. These women generally come from Bookim and other central towns of Africa, where they are to be had for \$100 or \$150. They have white skins and handsome complexions. andsome complexions, At Zanzibar and other well-known places the

Mozambique, Veeboo and other Portuguese towns, Portuguese women, and sometimes even other European women, live with these Hindoo merchants.

The western coast of India has a close mercan-The western coast of India has a close mercantile connection with these places. Gray goods, sugar, ghee, wheat, spices, false pearls, utensils and iron are the principal commodities imported into the coast towns by large native firms there. These firms correspond with Hindoo and Khoja Orms in Bombay. Parents send their children in their minority to Zanzibar to get an insight into the intricacies of trade. A poor person at first obtains a living of, say, ferty dollars a year as cook or menial in some firm. After some years he trades on his own account. An intelligent man, who can read and write, is more appreciated, and gets better pay. Indian merchants have pushed in so far that not a single town is without at least one of them. PORTUGUESE INTERESTS.

Mozambique, Veeboo, and the Gooja territories being under the Fortuguese rule, the trade four ishes there with better vigor. On the north the trade is still moderately carried on between Burawa and Central Madagascar and down to Sofisia. Although this trade is in existence, British influence has at least succeeded in making it a matter of risk.

The traders proceed with

matter of risk.

The traders proceed with strict secrecy into the Interior of Africa to catch slaves, and they never reveal their real purpose. Ivory being a commodity commonly received on the coast and on the islands from the mterior, these traders carry on the slave trade under cover of the ivory trade.

## THE SWEDISH ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

THE SWEDISH ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

The Stockholm Correspondent states that re-assuring news has reached it from Christiana about the Swedish expedition under the direction of M. Nordenskijlid, as well as about the Norwegian fishing fleet, whose fate in the Arctic regions caused considerable uneasiness. Five hours after the steamer Albert, litted up by the Norwegian fishing fleet, which had let forclandssund at shermen arrived at Hammerfest on board a vessel. Another vessel, which had let Forclandssund at the same time as they had, was separated from teem during the voyage. Other failermen had made for the port of Tsilorden, which was still navigable on the 6th of November. The vessels of M. Nordenskjöld were altogether at Moslebay. The reindeer taken on board had all escaped. A steamer was sent from Tromsö after the Albert, with orders to stop at Hammerfest, to examine the fishermen who had reached that port. A late elegram announces that the provisions of the Nordenskjöld expedition are running short, four vessels being forced to Winter in Moslebay instead of one, as was originally intended; these vessels are the Polhem, the Onkel, the Adam and the Gladan. Some of the missing fishing-boats have gone to Grabeck for the Winter. The Albert, pevertheiess, is proceeding in the direction of Spitzbergen as fast as possible. The vessel from Tromsö overtook her at Fuerdee, and then they gone to Grabeck for the Winter. The Albert, Bever-theless, is proceeding in the direction of Spitz-bergen as fast as possible. The vessel from Tromso overtook her at Fugelöe, and then they continued together as far as Hammerfest, where the Tromso vessel stopped, according to orders.

#### THE COOLIE TRADE IN CUBA. A Live-stock Freight "Rebarracouned"

in China. The China.

[From the Hong Kong Advertiser.]

The Spanish steamer Amboto, which left Macao on the 7th of October for Havana, with 786 coolies and two boys, put back on the same day in consequence of an accident in her machinery. The coolies were rebarracooned, and the Amboto went Into the Aberdeen dock.

New Forts on the Rhine.—A series of new forts (says the Baden correspondent of the Cologne Gazette) are to be built on the right bank of the Rhine, near Strasburg, and the works for this purpose will be commenced at the beginning of next Gazetic) are to be built on the right bank of the Ghine, near Strasburg, and the works for this purpose will be commenced at the beginning of next year. The most southerly of these forts (Marien), placed about two miles from the Rhine, will command the Altenheim-Lahr road; the most easterly (Neumah) will command the road to Wurtemberg, through the valley of the Reuch. These forts will also cover the principal roads in the Kinzig Valley, and any one holding them would be able to close two of the most important passes in the Black Forest, as, the communication over the Rhine being free, a defending army could easily prevent a flank march on the part of the enemy. The northern fort is close to the vhilage of Auenheim, commands the road from Kehl to Rastadt, and closes the circle of fortresses round Strasburg. Fort Marien is eight kilometres from Strasburg and 5.5 from Neumahl. Fort Neumahl is 4.5 kilometres from Strasburg. These forts will thus command both the territory lying between them and each other. Their chief object, however, is to secure a communication across the Rhine from Germany with the large entrenched camp formed by corts Reichstett, Suffelweiersheim, Niederhausbergen. Oberhausbergen, and Woi-Ashelm.

# WINTER'S CARNIVAL

The Grand Assault on the Snow Blockade in the City.

Embankments Hundreds of Miles Long Thrown Up.

How the Banditti Shovellers Did Their Work.

THE GREAT SLEIGHING SEASON BEGUN.

A Bitter Day and a Slim Display.

## "OUT ON THE ROAD."

Scenes Along the Route to McComb's Dam Bridge and Fordham-Blue Noses in Abundance.

COMING HOME AFTER SUNDOWN.

Sketches of Character and Scenery.

It is the cold, indisputable fact that the grandest exhibition of snow New Yorkers have witnessed for many years was that which nature laid at our teet yesterday morning. It was a cheerful and glorious spectacle, and, save people afflicted with bunions and dyspepsia, all else gave it a royal wel-come. Even the "Italian banditti" from "the passes of the Apennines" hailed its appearance with joy. The first honest penny these afflicted fugitives have yet earned in the land of the free came to them yesterday through means of the beautiful snow. Every nother's son of them able and willing to handle a shovel made as much for half a day's work as he might expect to get for a month's labor in the land of his fathers. The lamps were still lighting in the dim, gray morning when the grand assault began upon the snow banks encumbering the side-walks. On a hundred miles of thoroughfare a countless army of shoveliers worked away through the forenoon-worked like men entrenching themselves against a powerful invading host. From the Battery to Harlem breastworks were thrown up that the army of the Potomac never approached in accomplishing during so brief a time and to so great an extent. Fire shovels, coal shovels, mortar shovels and the regular old-lashioned wooden snow shovels were brought into action. It was THE GRANDEST SIGHT OF SHOVELLING

the world ever saw. There was enterprise in it, too. There was keen rivalry between one storekeeper and another-between one housekeeper and another. The Italian banditti and our own banditti, to whom a fall of snow is as welcome as a fall of manna was to the Israelites of old, worked with savage energy. Every house on aristocratic avenues like Fitth and Madison, where Jeames (knee plush ultra of servants) thinks it beneath him to shovel snow off the sidewalk, counted fifty cents ahead to the banditti, and, as a consequence the banditti went for these and like avenues as they might for a clothing store on fire. The fellow who shovelled through his work the fastest made

who shovelled through his work the fastest made money the fastest. Having sent the last flake flying from his wooden shovel off his twenty-five foot extent of sidewalk, he shouldered his weapon and trotted away to another job next door. Yesterday was

TRULY A GREAT DAY

for the banditti. One of them is credibly reported to have made \$20 between six o'clock and tweive at noon. But, short-sighted as human nature is always, they flattered themselves this snow fall would be a common thing through the Winter, and a large majority of the banditti (our own chiefly) knew not themselves from their shovels in the evening so vilely did they abuse mait and other such lively beverages. Broadway was taken in charge by the regular banditti of the Street Cleaning department, and they made pretty clean work of it. While the virgin mantle of snow as yet undefiled and unwrightled lay cave, all things the day, and the long line of prancing teams and kandsome equipages seemed to have no end, as it swept by, like the rapid succession of beautiful images in a vivid dream. Coming back with more rapid pace than when going out,

THE KEEN SOUTH WEST BREEZE

Diew straight in the face, but its searching breath sent through the blood a tingling sensation of vigor and warmth, while the merry sights and sounds linked with an exquisite excitement so rare and racy as to set the fancy dancing and the heart fall of the horses' hoots in the sury of the former should dream. Coming back with an exquisite excitement so rare and racy as to set the fancy dark there with a searching breath sent through the benery sights and sounds linked with an exquisite excitement so rare and racy as to set the fancy dark the purportal through the breat through the breat strength in the face, but its searching breath sent through the benery sights and sounds linked with an exquisite excitement so rare and racy as to set the fancy dark the previous flowers and the heart side of the breath sent their thoughts loads of merry hearts, like the very wind: and the happy beal While the virgin mantle of snow as yet undefiled sented a wonderful spectacle. A HERALD reporter went up in a balloon—that is to say he went up the fire tower in the Fiffeenth ward-to view the scene, and it really looked as if New York had gone to bed and drawn a white counterpane over her. It also looked as if New York was being "waked" while in this condition. The lamps appeared as candles beside the quit, reminding one of the classic lines referring to the memorable end of Mr. Tim Finnegan, who had numerous tal-low luminaries around his head, and an equally

large collection around his feet. WONDERFUL WALLS.
At twelve O'clock noon, thanks to the superhuman exertions of the gallant shovel brigade, the sidewalks were as clean and slippery as the kitchen floor of a Park row restaurant. The embankments thrown up along Broadway and many other streets were marvellous to behold. On the inner side they looked like solid walls of marble, or rather pig's lard. At intervals of from twenty to flity eet excavations were made to permit pedestrians crossing from one side of the street to the other. These, too, were amazing. So solid did they look at either side one was tempted to believe that crowbars and nitrogiveerine were used to effect the cuttings. The cheerfulness that prevailed over all the travail of travel was another striking circumstance. If the snow had only been about six feet deeper the gen eral hilarity would have been boundless. It is to be hoped we may have a longer and more profound visitation of this delightful stimulant to the nerves and the appetite, for then we shall enjoy such a carnival as never entered into the wildest dreams

of the Romans.

THE ABOMINABLE BROADWAY STAGES. Sixteen feet only of Broadway were left for ve-hicular locomotion, and to the distress of every lover of his country and of the glorious pastime of sleighing, this brief space was monopolized by those most attrocious of ail monstrosities on wheels, the Broadway stages, which were doubled up for the occasion. Forgiveness at such a merciful season might be granted them if they had only knocked of their wheels and come down on runners; but no, the beastly things would insist upon ploughing up and utterly defling our "beautiful snow.

The Sleighing Carnival. The sleighing carnival began late in the day as

compared with other years, because no one was prepared for so sudden and tremendous a down-It was a stunning avalanche from the skies, and bewildered the brains of every livery stable keeper in the city. But soon the jingle of sleigh bells made the air musical. Yet still it was far advanced in the day ere Broadway had much to show in the sleighing line. About two in the afternoon the fun began in earnest.

A SINGULAR SLEIGH AND TEAM.

It was at this hour a representative of the HERALD succeeded easily enough in securing a sieigh of the elden time-a survivor of many a stiff Winter-capable in an emergency of accommodating the largest and fattest family of the most prosperous lager beer salcon in the city, along with the driver, a target excursion and a brass band thrown in. It was ample and accommodating

team of horses can be recommended to the whole fraternity of reporters desirous of "doing up" in a leisurely manner the sleighing route from Union square to McComb's Dam bridge. Their principle is never to pass any other team on the road, and by this sensible and obliging course of conduct they permit ample scope for taking a calm survey of everything.

The Pitth Avenue Hotel was the starting point of yesterbay's seighing. Farther down town than that sleighs were new and far between, or they were peopled with the masic gender, who, in their hirsufe caps and collars, were not lovely to look at. The beauties of the avenue did not show in strength, but still there were elough to keep the eye and the fancy active. The majority stayed within the fancy active. The majority of the fancy active factors of the fancy active. The majority of the fancy of the fact in the sky above them. True, indeed, it was "a nipping and an eager at." The great hyporborean mitranieuse at the North Pole fired into us a ceaseless voiley of granulated ice-berg. It pierced through buffair of best and male tight of the toughest shoe leather.

Under such circumstances no wonder there were no countless thousands of the lair sex abroad, and of those that were some looked disconsolate, yet many appeared as happy as the familiar soundower. Our sieigh bore up in the most persistent kind of a way to the pleasant open space in front of the Catholic carnedral. Here the nor easiers bew with a healthy ferocaese, but we had to wait till arriving at the Fark cutrance to appreciate the irresistible force of hygiciac he brought us from Alaska.

The most forlorn animals encountered on the joint poly and the property of the balancy days of spring. Speed and quadruped sympathized, no doubt, and the pritying dimes who sat centing their placetias endowed the placetias of the same placetias of the property of the balancy and the property of the property of the prope

Out of an unseen quarry, evermore
Furnished with tite, the here artificer
Curved his white bastions with projected roof
Round every whirlwind, stake or tree or door;
Speeding, the myrind-handed, his wild work,
So fancirul, so savage; nought cared he
For number or proportion. Mockingly
On coop and fennel he hung Parian wreathes,
A swan-like form invests the bidden thorn;
And at the gate
A tapering turret overtops the work.
And when his hours are numbered and the world
Was all his own, retiring as he were not
Left, when the sun appeared, astonished Art
To mimic in slow structures, stone by stone,
Built in an age, the mad wind's night-work,
The troile architecture of the snow.
Past all these pictures, strange for the si

Past all these pictures, strange for the suburb of New York,

a cascade and sparkled in the sunlight. For when MacComb's dam bridge had been reached add the fleet runners slackened in speed, and went more slowly over the creaking structure, with a sharp crisp sound that even had an accent of melody about it, the atternoon sun at last had began to peep out from the clouds that since Wednesday had obscured the sky, and suddenly, as if by the art of magic,

The wholk scene had changed.

The snow that heretofore had simply been spotlessly white and pure, now was possessed of a thousand varying charms, and the world glistened and gleamed in the genial glow of the golden light. Then the real glory of the sleighing carnival was begun, and thenceforth the groves by the roadside and the bare, guant rocks echoed to silvery peals of laughter from fair and ruby lips. Joility ruled the hour and the womanly faces that passed were wreathed in witching smiles, while the gruff voices of the men were rendered musical by an instanctive appreciation of the poetry of this rhapsody of life.

The representative of the Herall, bundled up in huge furs and with ears and cheeks half frozen, tumbled out of his equipage at Dodge's and partook of the hospitalits there afforded. Here were gathered in the barroom one or two of the old horsemen who had graced the Lane with their presence from his earliest recollection.

Jovial Faced Pfellows

Some of them were, with loity Arctic caps and great fur coats. Their noobly nags were munching their bits impatiently under the shed in the yard, while they chatted professionally over steaming cups. The place, however, was not so crowded as it has formerly been when Tammany munificence was in full flow and the diamonds in the shirt-bosoms of her magnates sparkled almost as thicky as the fakes of snow upon the road. The dining room that had seen some sumptuous "spreads" in its time was descreted, and "Alexander," the negro walter, who has a confused sort of intellect, was utterly at a loss what to do upon the entrance of strangers, until a mind-acced virgin somewhat

kitchen, and the hungry wayfarers who had arrived sat down to waiting and to melancholy. Both were at length terminated by the arrival of the repast.

Horses were once more brought to the door and the parities of pleasure-seekers started off with louder spirits and more jovial faces, flushed with excitement and pleasure. From the Harlem River to Mount St. Vincent the driving was juster, and jocose rivalry was displayed all along the route by the owners of good and pad animals. The picture was wonderful in its variations. Here,

—— RUSHING ALONG LIKE A METEOR,

came a cican, smooth, heat-limbed mare, of a soft brown color, whose nostrils, stretched wide, were fringed with irozen spray and her silky mane filled with ice. Her bells fingled merrily, and she passed all her rivals at a steady pace, kept back as she struggled to overcome the curb of the bit only by the firm resolution of the tall, powerful man who sat in the nobby cutter and held the reins tightly, as if he knew the very soul of his restive servant. He wore a low, thick cap that covered all of his head except his eyes and mouth, and from the latter could be distinguished in the keen air a white cloud of vapor, curling upward and congealing on a huge, shagey mustache that drooped from his upper hip. Underneath he had been described by the facety of the spiendid speed of his favorite. He was a vauiting steed with great and strong strides, who carried his head proudly, and had a clear, mellow eye, that however dashed fire as he moved along. He is a Patchen, with long, slim legs and a sweeping tail. His dark coat was clad in ite formed by the frozen perspiration. The sleigh contained a healthy, ruddy-faced man and a young, golden-haired woman. How gayly they cheek glow and their eyes sparkle as they fy past! Few others venture to follow them in the mad race for first position in the procession, and the rest of the line goes on at the same rate as before, only with increasing tun and excitement. There is a fine, three-scated sied, behind a sieck pair of gr

and whose faces, already pretty, are rendered beautiful by the warm flush given by the wind and weather. A last team, with two of the "ohoys" behind it, dashes by them, and they look back gayly and smile archly. Presently they go shead of another "rig," and they cast at the conquered horse and man a taunting glance, in which is mingred their triumph and challenge. They are all the way chatting and laughing loud. They are all the way chatting and laughing loud. They are all the way chatting and laughing loud. They are all the way chatting and laughing loud. They are lappy. A youthful brother beside the driver is playing the gallant by smoking a cigar.

NEXT IN THE PANORAMA
is a gruff individual in a sumptuous sled drawn by a pair of beautiful horses. He is all allone in his pleasure, and his face is hard and atern. He is unhappy. Then come a co-ple upon whose heads boauty, wealth and youth have all descen led. The young man has his arm about his companion, and their eyes meet. They are happy. Then there comes with more ponderous speed a great family sleigh, driven by

A PROWSY COACHMAN,
with a beery look and small eyes that peer doubt-

their eyes meet. They are happy. Then there com's with more ponderous speed a great family sleigh, driven by

A PROWSY COACHMAN,

with a beery look and small eyes that peer doubtfully over the top of the old shawl which is wound about his head. The steeds are rather angular than otherwise. But behind them is the merriest burden of cheery hearts in the whole length of the proud procession. It is a samilar party. There is the lather, a grav-haired gentieman, with some hundreds in the bank, and nothing to werry him; beside him his round-faced spouse, beaming with contentment, and opposite, and warmly wrapped in goaks and shawis, a young woman, with a sweet £ce, and two little children whose cheeks bloom like the roses of Summer. Every one knows it is a family, and so every one looks at them with kindly inquisitiveness. So the scenes change, and all the characters come and go with different looks and in different circumstances. There were rude, uncushioned sieghs with German butchers in them, following after a grand turnout with four spanking horses and liverted attendants. There were, however, few sportsmen out whose names, if mantoned, would be known to the general public. The only one was Mr. Harry Hill, who, with his fast mare Maggle, had ventured to try the virtue of the snow, He was accompanied by a lady whose youth and beauty attracted the attention and envy of all his old cronies who saw him on the road, more even than the whirlwind speed wish which ne traversed the slippery track behind his fleet favorits.

was the most popular stopping place, and when the cavalcade arrived here the light was rapidly waning. From the high elevation of the veranda of the hote; the view was simply sublime. The yellow sunset hues tinded the sky from the far north around to the south with a rich softness and beauty that cast a reflected glow like a food of the hote; the view was simply sublime. The yellow sunset hues tinded the key from the far north around to the south with a rich softness and was marked on both sides by long

From Mount St. Vincent
TO THE GITY
the ride was lighted by the stars that had sprung
one by one out of the deep blue. The snow glistened weirdly, and the convent hill on the right,
with its dark, frowning buildings and black trees,
looked strangely picturesque. The Park was
almost empty and the greater part of the sleighing
parties went homeward by the way of Pifth avenue,
which all the way down was crowded until late in
the eventor.

# SLEIGHING IN BROOKLYN.

Life on the Snow-Clad Streets and Roads Past and Present.

"Now for it!" was the expression which arose to many youthful lips, as bright faces gazed out from snug apartments in the houses of the well-to-de people of Brooklyn upon the snowy hillocks which spread out far as the vision could range yes terday morning; "Now for a joily, good, old-fash-ioned sleigh ride, and perhaps hall a dezen jaunts ever the fleecy carpet, before a change in the humor of the Clerk of the Weather dissipates the pleasing prospect." Such expressions were uttered by many, and such fond hopes were entertained upon taking observations yesterday Mother Goose was picking her "New Year's poultry" as the white flakes were falling rapidly in tiny particles, which certainly appeared to give color to the anticipation of a protracted solourn of the Winter covering upon our streets, roads and byways. The grocer, butcher and baker were first to make their appearance upon the streets "on runners," and the merry jingling of their bells only tended all the more to excite a desire on the part of the customers of the tradespeople to emulate that system of rapid transit. But difficulties were apparent even to the enthusiastic lover of sleighing. It was observed that

THE WORKING SLEIGHS of the storekeepers were compelled to remain in

the middle of the street whenever they halted to leave their supplies, and that great snow banks which bordered the sidewalks would not admit of the sleighs being brought near the curb. This was certainly

A DRAWBACK.

It was a serious obstacle to the little, tender feet of the fair ones, who did "so long for a sleigh ride." How were they to reach the sleigh? With those who could make the requisite arrangements for a drive on the runners this trivial difficulty was soon obviated. Have a passage cut through

THE ARCTIC BANK. This could be done. The labor was not so great There were poor laboring men standing upon

This could be done. The labor was not so great. There were poor laboring men standing upon every corner with shovels ready, waiting for just such work. Muscular arms were soon brought into requisition, and the brightly polished shovel was not long in delving to the very bottom of the deepest snow bank and clearing a broad way through which the fair ones could bass to the sleigh. Money thus expensed was laid out in a Charitable Manner; it helped to allevate the wants of fellow creatures, who, too, could enjoy the delights of the snow-clad road had they the means, but to whom the stipend afforded in this way was far more acceptable as it relieved an absolute necessity. Be that as it may, one thing is certain, by ten o'clock there were Manny Prarty slieldhs in Morion upon all sides. There were many bright eyes glastening all the brighter for the exhilaration of the motion. Ruses glowed to a deeper vermillion upon the lair cheeks of the warmly muffled, buffalowrapped occupants of the handsome wheeliess convoyances. The music of happy, cheery voices resounded upon every side, and its CHARM WAS CONTAGIOUS.

Even the plodding pedestrian could not fail to feel the lighter-hearted and better for its influence. There were difficulties, notwithstanding, attendant upon locomotion yesterday. The roads were not yet broken and

THE FONEER PLEASURISTS suffered the inconveniences consequent thereon. The movement was far from rapid, except when the drive was along the car tracks on the beaten course of the plough; then a more rapid and agreeable rate of progress was attainable. It happened naturally, therefore, that sleighing parties turned their horses' heads along Court street, fution at a favorite route with Brooklyintes. Some there were who pushed ont along Third street, fution affavorite route with Brooklyintes. Some there were who pushed ont along Third street with the hope of reaching Prospect Park, but these enterprising adventurers did het long continue to pursue the Exysyn Texos of parties found their way—this course f

ciub house. Here it is customary to repair in sieighing times, during a fine evening, and enjoy a warm meal and a dance. This programme will be repeated this season unless the signs of the times augur wrong.

repeated this season unless the signs of the times augur wrong.

OF THE PAST.

Years ago it was customary for sleighing parties to drive out to John I. Snediker's, to the Eight-Mile House, near the Union race course, over the old Jamaica plankroad. There they would alight, partake of a joliy good supper and have a dance, to the inspiration of a full band of music, procured by the host of the inn. But the construction of the Coney Island road in later years diverted patronage from the Jamaica route. The pocuniary Winter harvests of "John I." fell off. He sold out, and the scene of jolity of former days, like the harp of Tara, has fied the hall of the inn. The apartment is now used as a "dormitory for small boys"—the truants of Kings county, who promise to be fit for nothing but Congressmen when they shall have attained the years which qualify them for holding office. The Eight-Mile House is now the County Truant Home. So much for the past and present. the last degree. Driven to extremities we might to make a more accommodating. Appreciating commodating the manufacture of the freight, they allowed the full-latitude of time for an observant eye take in the scenery on the road or manufacture. A PARTY OF PRETTY GIRLS, whose looks are charmingly roughly and wicked. Winter pastime, bear in 1572 and 1572 a

## SOCIAL RINGS.

Washington Tycoons of Upper-Tendom Under the Lens.

Charming "Affairs" and the Cost Thereof.

Delightful Society and Pleasant Appropriations by Cemplaisant Congress-The Men of Science and Their Distinguished Ways-Something About the Gay Season.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26, 1872. Washington society has, like Saturn and New York politics, its "rings" clearly defined, and more firmly banded together than the Arch Perpetual Tycoons of the upper degrees of Freemasonry. gatherings of these exclusive sets, and whenever a Congressman is invited he is made to understand that he is highly honored.

THE SCIENTIFIC RING is headed by the venerable Professor Henry, who is high custodian of that enlarged architectural toy, the Smithsonian Institution. To make room for his charming family, and to have a spare bed for a visiting savant, the Professor has had to benevolently turn over the library of the establishment to Congress, which has given it shelter at the Capitol and pays the librarian, and he has also donated the entomological specimens to the De-partment of Agriculture, where the bugs are cared for without cost to him. The collections of the exploring expeditions of the government are retained, as Congress appropriates \$15,000 per annum for their care, and has been asked this year to donate \$20,000 more to fit up a new museum hall, with \$12,000 to heat the establishment. The right-hand man of the Smithsonian, Professo Baird, receives some \$20,000 for prosecuting his inquiries into the decrease of food-fishes, and for and the Government Printing Office publishes the annual report free, so Professor Henry has at his disposal the \$39,000 per annum waich Uncle Sam has to pay, because of the investment in worthless bonds of old Smithson's bequest. But the amount of knowledge "diffused among men" in return for these large appropriations from the public treasury is so great that the profane only dare allude to it in whispers, especially those admitted to the charming hospitalities of the institution.

is another delightful nucleus around which may be found some of the most charming people in Washington, although the superintendent, Professor Peirce, is domiciliated at Harvard College. His assistant, Professor Hilyard, who runs the machine, has an attractive house on N street; and of all the pleasant resorts in the suburbs. none is more delightful than "Brentwood," where the hydrographic man of the concern, Captain Patterson, dispenses rural hospitalities. But the great social charm of the Coast Survey is its "parties" who go North in the Summer and South in the Winter, and on which young men out of health or business go, receiving the "compensation to civilians," which forms a pleasant item in the sum of \$732,000, which Professor Peirce estimates his expenses at. In ante-bellum days some ignorant barbarian would occasionally rise in Congress to intimate that this survey of the coast had cost too much money, and that it could have been done for half of the millions then spent on it. But of late it is such a convenient haven of refuge for impecunious members of the families of those in power that ons member of Congress has the audacity to question the value of its geodetic connections, its hydrographic reconnaissances, its magnetic observations, or the social pre-eminence of its officers. True, the engineer curps is doing the same work on the great lakes and across the Continent better and for less money, but the social position of the Coast Survey people, you know, keeps it unchallenged.

ALIGHTHOUSE IN THE SKIES A LIGHTHOUSE IN THE SKIES

THE COAST SURVEY

was the deriance term applied by the democrats to President John Quincy Adams' project for a mational observatory, and it was denounced as different of the regulation of chromometers, and this has grown into a full pledged observatory. There is a full inval staff, with an admiral at its head, and a dozen or more subordinate officials, besides "civilians" to do the work, the annual cost being about \$25,000 in addition to the pay and all heads, when the mataria is not loating on the adjacent low lands, and M.F. Maury, who got it up as a life-home, but went into Secessia, must often wish himself back again. What can be more agreeable for a gallant young Ropresentative than to take a hack (paid for out of the contingent expense fund), and escert a couple of infrience of the revolving dome and take peeps at the plants? There is a huge book of cabalistic signs and figures prepared here also, called "The American Ephomeris." Just think of that! Who envies the officers or the civilians at the Observatory their places so long as the establishment has to starger under the responsibility of such a work, which would have made Dominio Samson ejectively recoped out on this same Bureau on Navigation of the Navy, is a "Hydrographic Office" for supplying charts to menof-war and merchantmen. The Hydrographer is Commodore Wyman, the Assistant Hydrographer is Commodore Wyman, the Assis

it was slowly hanied to and fro by four horses. Pennsylvania avenue, with six inches of level snow trodden down on its level wood pavement, is a grand corso for the exhibition of horses, hades, sleighs, furs and drivers, and it some men will "let out" their fast crabs it is because there was too much whiskey in the egg nog of which they partook ere starting, and not that they desire to disobey the laws.

is to commence part week and last until Lent.

to the delight of hairdressers and sellers of kid gloves, as well as to those who expect to achieve conquests. Young Snobbe, who now walks languidly down the avenue, listlessly swinging his cane, will be seen dashing off with a partner into a galop, having an arm as steady and an eye as quick as one of Pidi Sheridan's troopers going into a melée. The anxious mother will be seen sitting gaping against the wall, her eyes telegraphing angry glances when her dangater dances with a poor lieutenant, or beaming with rapture when the girl is taken into supper by some foreign noodle of distinction. Musicians will play all night and yawail day, epicures will gourmandize on Wormley's terrapin, or Welcher's boned turkeys, and those who, like your inithful correspondent, have to caronicle what is going on, will doubtless enderse the opinion of Alphonse of Castile, that woman is a creature "qui s'habiile, se deshabitle, et daville,"

## THE MISSISSIPPI ICE-GORGE

Great Destruction of Steamhoat Property and Freight on the Great National Water Route-The Coal Supply of Memphis Submerged-The Losses About \$250,000.

MEMPHIS, Dec. 27, 1872. Last night the Ice gorged at "Hen and Chickens." just above the city, and at two o'clock the gorge broke and the ice came down with terrific force, sweeping off the dry docks, then cutting down ten barges of coal belonging to Brown & Jones, and finally steamer after steamer from the wharf, until it was thought that not a single one of the large number there could be saved. The following is a list of the boats carried off:—
Laura, Belle Pike, S. D. Walt, Undine, West Wind

and City of Augusta. The towboat Neille Thomas is in a critical condition, and it is doubtful whether she can be saved, as the ice is running very heavily. The West Wind and S. D. Wait are loaded with The bluffs in front of the city and the levee are

lined with people watching the strange spectacle of the destruction by the ice of the boats in the Just above the foot of Jefferson street lies the S.

D. Wait, crowded on shore and broken in two.

Above her is the Beile Pike, sunk to her guards and supported by empty barges.

Just below lies the Laura, badly broken. Grews are busily engaged in wrecking the steamers in order to save all possible before the ice changes Just at the water gauge lies the West Wind, driven on the bow of the White Star wharlbeat, her upper works a complete wreck, but her hull, with 350 bales of cetton, is comparatively unin-

jured.

Just astern and crowded in the outer guard of the wharboat lies the Andy Baum, with her upper works badly damaged and the boat in a precarious condition. The wharboat is but little injured. At its stern the Arlington, Glasgow and St. Francis are lying with their guards and upper works smashed

works smashed.

Owing to the confusion and strenuous efforts of the crews to save everything possible and guard against further danger it is impossible to obtain reliable data as to losses. The Walt is owned by Elliott Brothers, of Memphis, who are now engaged in wrecking her and saving all the cotton possible.

gaged in wrecking her and saving an the contour possible.

The Laura will be a total loss. She is owned by Captain James, her commander.

The Belie Pike will prove almost a total loss, together with her cargo of cotton. She is owned by the St. Louis and Naples Packet Company. She is being wrecked.

The dry docks, after being driven down to the foot of Exchange street, were secured and will probably be saved, though they and the steamer Pat. Claborne are in a critical condition; likewise the Nellie Thomas, whose upper works are crushed. The West Wind, belonging to Massingdale & Bowman, of Nashville, is in great peril—having been stripped of her upper works and forced against the wharf boat with such power as to break her shafts.

stripped of her upper works and forced against the wharf boat with such power as to break her shafts.

The Undine and Helen have broke, and the Summer Koon has sunk out of sight.

The Clipper, a towboat, was driven to the head of President's Island, and will prove a total loss.

Brown & Jones have lost about one hundred and thirty thousand dollars' worth of coal, leaving only three days' supplies in the hands of dealers in Memphis. The gasworks which supply the city are without a day's supply. Coal dealers have advanced the prices to \$2 per barrel, which will cause great suffering among the poor.

When the break-up occurred and the Andy Baumwas driven down on the wharfboat, Taylor Wells, one of her pilots, attempted to jump from the hurricane deck to the wharfboat, but fell into the river and was badly crushed by the ice. He was rescued with great difficulty. John Clinton and the barkseper both made leaps, but were badly bruised. The James Howard arrived from below about ten o'clock and made several inefectual efforts to pull the City of Augusta out, without being able to move her.

The river is still rising, having risen three and a half feet since last evening.

A gorge formed at Randolph again to-day, but broke in the affernoon.

The lee at six o'clock was running heavier than ever. The James Howard succeeded in saving the Undine, Helen Brooke and City of Augusta. The work of wrecking the R. P. Walt, Belie Pike and West Wind is being pushed with great energy.

The total loss by the disasters will not fall shord a quarter of a million dollars. All the steamers at the landing have steam up, anticipating greater danger to-night. The short supply of coat is the all-absorbing tople, and the question is asked whether the gas companies can supply their

# THE MODOO WAR.

The Redskins Receiving Reinforce ments-Militia Asked For.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 27, 1872. A telegram from Yreka says that the Modocs are eing reinforced by stragglity Indians. Some of the Pitt River tribes have joined them. The Oregon volunteers will soon be mustered out. There are 280 soldiers in the field. Details for escort and guard duty leave only seventy-five fighting men and only fourteen soldiers at Fort Klamath Reservation to guard 2,500 Indians. Klamath Reservation to guard 2,500 Indians.

Mortars and bombshells are to be employed in storming the Indians' lava-bed stronghold.

The citizens of Yreka have appointed P. A. Dorris to go to Sacramento and ask Governor Booth for a company of volunteers to go to thaseat of war, which is partly in Oregon and partly in California, on either side of the boundary line.

A despatch to-night says that last Saturday a party of solders, en route from Camp Bidwell ta Captain Berrand's camp, on Lost River, were attacked by about fifty Modoc Indians. Two soldiers were killed and four wounded. Five nules were killed. The soldiers who were killed were scalped. No Indians are known to be killed.

## THE ERIE CANAL.

An Independent Policy Suggested to the Canal Commissioners of the Empire

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 27, 1872. The Advertiser of this afternoon publishes an elaborate exposition of an independent canal policy for the Empire State, from the pen of Israel . Hatch, taking the ground that although the benefits of the Eric Canal are national, yet the State of New York is able to take care of her own canals without taxing her own people of that of the Union to furnish carrying capacity to move to our metropolitan city the whole export portion of Western crops, now and hereafter, cheaper than any existing or projected route. He also shows, from mathematical deductions from French science, the capacity of the Eric Canal and points out how the carly epgineers were governed by these, in their formula tables and specifications. In constructing the original canal as well as the present enlargement. He further says the only enlargement now needed is of brains and nonesty in the canal administration; that the first needed step in canal reform has been accomplished in the election of General Dix; that it vessel, propeller and railway owners in Chicago had regulated their exorbitant freight charges this year by the comparatively cheap transportation of the Eric Canal the Western farmers would not this Winter be burning their corn for fuel. canals without taxing her own people or that or

## A VERY SAD OCCURRENCE.

A Seton Hall College Seminarian Accedidentally Shot.

In Roseville, a suburban portion of Newark, on Christmas Day, a melancholy shooting accident took place, by which a young seminarian of Seton Hall College nearly loss his life, and the Catholic Church a probable clergyman. A number of Newarkers had gathered to wit-A number of Newarkets had gathered to witness a shooting match. Considerable shooting was done all day without anything happening to mar the sport. Towards evening, however, one of the marksmen, Mr. John Ball, of Bank street, Newark, shipped white aiming at the target. The ride went off, the load of lead going in an oblique direction among the speciators, lodging in the arm of Seminarian rerence Brady, who is about twenty-two years of age. He was removed to St. Michael's flospital, where it was found necessary to amputate the arm in order to save his sife. It is probable ne will now recover. He is represented by those was knew him as being a young man of more been did not be a supported by those and knew him as being a young man of more been continuous of bis arm destroys all his loopes candidate to too, however, as it is essential in physically pertion, however, as it is essential in physically per-the priesthood that he should by physically per-fect. Deep commiseration is eli for the young man in Newark, where he by many friends